CLAIMS

1.   A method of checking sheets such as bonds, documents or the like as to forgery thereof, said sheet being provided with an electronic circuit chip from or in which information can be read out or written and having visible information, comprising the steps of:

encrypting the visible information of said sheet and storing the encrypted visible information in said electronic circuit chip, and

determining discriminatively authenticity of said sheet on the basis of the visible information of said sheet and the information stored in said electronic circuit chip.

2.   A forgery checking method set forth in claim 1,

wherein said information stored is information resulting from encryption of physical or chemical information of sheet constituent elements which can discriminatively be identified externally of said sheet.

3.   A forgery checking method set forth in claim 2,

wherein said information stored is information resulting from encryption of relative position information of a sheet constituent element relative to said electronic circuit chip.

4.   A forgery checking method set forth in claim 3,

wherein said information stored includes digital signature information for said information.

5.   A forgery checking method set forth in claim 1,

wherein said method comprises

determining previously a threshold value on the basis of elementary information stored in at least two electronic circuit chips incorporated in a single sheet,

making decision that said sheet is a forged one when difference is found in a greater number of said elementary information than said threshold value, and

making decision that said sheet is an authentic one when difference is found in a number of said elementary information which is equal to or smaller than said threshold value.

6.   A forgery checking method set forth in claim 1,

wherein said method comprises

scanning said sheet in which said electronic circuit chip is mounted at a random position, and

encrypting the information obtained by said scanning or generating a digital signature and affixing said digital signature to said information or affixing said digital signature to the encrypted information for storage in said electronic circuit chip.

7.   A forgery checking method set forth in claim 1,

        wherein said method comprises

        storing information inherent to said electronic circuit chip in said electronic circuit chip, and

        storing said information to be stored in said electronic circuit chip in another storing means differing from said electronic circuit chip while establishing correspondence with the information inherent to said electronic circuit chip.

8.   A sheet management system comprising:

        means for receiving signals from sheets having respective electronic circuit chips incorporated therein, said electronic circuit chips including means for transmitting intermittently signals inherent to the relevant sheets, respectively, with every random transmission interruption periods and means for stopping the transmission in response to a stop command,

        means for emitting a radio wave within a limited coverage while being moved along a direction in which said sheets are stacked, and

        means for performing identification of the sheet upon reception of a signal from said sheet to thereby send a stop command valid only for said sheet, while waiting for a predetermined time unless the signal is received.